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7-8-03

PATENT
Docket No. HIAS.95176

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Tomoyoshi YABE

Serial No.: 09/578,038

Filing Date: May 25, 2000

For: SURFACE INSPECTION SYSTEM

Examiner: Virginia M. Kibler

Group Art Unit: 2623

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JUL 02 2003

Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on February 27, 2003. The enclosed Petition for Extension of Time will extend the time the response is due from May 27, 2003 to June 27, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

AI
In a conventional continuous work line handling work boards, for instance, the shape and color tone of a semi-finished product are frequently caused to change on every occasions after finishing each manufacturing process. For example, in a continuous coating line of building boards, the color tone of the building board is caused to apparently change upon finishing each manufacturing process even if the original shape of the building board or work board is not changed.

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